



Plymouth

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

BOARD OF WORSHIP

Meeting Minutes

February meeting held Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Attendance:

Yes	No	
■		Karen Barstad (2020), <i>Chair</i>
■		Jamie Bonczyk (2019)
■		Andrea Bubula (2021)
	x	vacant
■		Beth Faeth, <i>Staff Liaison</i>

Yes	No	
■		Nancy Geertz-Larson (2020), <i>Secretary</i>
■		Karl Jones (2019)
■		Jasper Jonson (2019)
■		Penelope Needham (2020)
	X	Maureen Tanis (2021)

GUESTS:

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. During the summer when there are no educational events, the service schedule will be First Service at 9 am and Second Service at 10:30 am with fellowship between the two services.

Item 3.

Focusing Ourselves

Opening thought –we read the covenant together

Board of Worship Racial Justice Covenant

Oh God, as people of faith, we as the Board of Worship covenant with you, with one another and to Plymouth Congregational Church to:

- Become better informed about people of other races and cultures, that we may overcome the fears and misconceptions that exist;
- Consider how issues of racial prejudice and privilege affect each person with whom we come in contact;
- Discover and acknowledge practices and structures that may be racist within Plymouth Congregational Church and our supporting faith community;
- Work to erase the sins of racism and injustice where they exist in Plymouth Congregational Church and within our faith community; and
- Prayerfully heed Your call to embrace people of all races.”

Minutes Procedure

Minute-taker submits draft to group within 10 days of meeting; members have 7 days to submit revisions (no response is treated as approval).

If any revisions, minute-taker forwards revised draft to group within 3 days for electronic approval; members have 2 days to respond (no response is treated as approval).

Minute-taker submits approved minutes in Microsoft Word format to the Ministry Assistant for Programs (Doug Freeman, dougf@plymouth.org) upon approval.

Discussion Items

Conversation with representatives from the Racial Justice Initiative– *because February 20 meeting was cancelled due to snowstorm, this conversation will be rescheduled.*

Update from Beth on clergy actions and the focus on the purposes of the church for worship themes

- There will be talking circles during Lent about racial justice and the embroidery. Hope that by having small group discussions, there will be a deeper and meaningful conversations between people of different views. The groups will be 4 times/week, led by the 4 clergy. Beth encourages us to sign up for 1 conversation. Will try to do as much in-person sign-up as possible. The receptionist will handle the sign-up. After these conversations, there will be a report to Leadership Council. Group size will be 5-8. Sessions will be: Sunday after second service, Wednesday at 7 pm, Thursday at 10 am, and Saturday at 10 am.
- Clergy shared at Leadership Council 4 possible outcomes and had discussion about consequences...what could go wrong and what could go right. Options: don't do anything, take it down, take a sabbatical year, and leave it up with explanatory text.
- Jim Bear Jacobs' sermon had a big impact on the congregation.
- Leadership Council will make a decision in April.
- Leadership Council & Deacons were given "White Fragility" & "Anxious to Talk about It", books to read.
- Good Friday – recommend labyrinth
- Will discuss Maundy Thursday service at official March meeting
- The floors in the Sanctuary & Guild Hall will be sanded and refinished during this summer. Therefore, the summer embroidery can't be hung and all 4 embroideries will have to be out of Guild Hall during the floor sanding.
- Need to discuss plans for summer
 - Times for worship during summer: Clergy recommendation is to have worship services at 9 am & 10:30am, with no education time.
 - Need to decide location for worship. First Service could continue in Chapel until the fumes are bad. First Service could be relocated to the gallery when Chapel not available.
 - Another possibility is using Jackman/Lenmark
 - Would it possible to set up Jones Commons for First Service?
 - We might have larger First Service attendance in the summer. The lowest First Service attendance was 80, average has been 120. The service starts at 9, but families are still arriving during the first minutes of the service.
 - Motion made, seconded and passed to change worship schedule for summer.
- Clergy are requesting that Communion first Sunday in Lent be by intinction. Choir will need to have communion passed since they are signing during Communion. Plan: Andrea will buy the bread, crackers & juice. She will help with set-up, Penny will help with clean-up, and Karen will help with clean-up. Meet to do the preparation Sunday morning at 9 am.
- At future meeting, need to review the Sunday morning schedule. Need to make a formal decision. Bring feedback we've been hearing. Beth will bring data about attendance. First Service has tripled, Second Service has stayed the same this year, but has been declining for years. Involvement in the Education hour has also increased this year.
- At next meeting, also need to review the greeting time during Second Service.

Ideas for using the extra \$1000 in our budget for church growth (*plan 15 minutes*)

- Jasper spends \$20/month on gluten-free bread for First Service Communion. Also need candles for First Service.
- In the fall there will be a series of storytelling – "invisible stories making them visible". That will be for 6 weeks. On alternate weeks we could have storytelling by Plymouth members. Church is more than worship services. We need to think outside traditional paradigm – what are some different ways to be the church? Some of our \$1000 could be used to promote this storytelling series. This could be a welcoming event – a way to invite people who aren't already connected with Plymouth.

- Could we capture some events (like 100 hands) and publicize them?
- How could we use the money specific to the 2 worship services?
- Podcasts could be a way to connect with additional people. Plymouth used to have sermons available via podcasts, but stopped for some unknown reason. The sound quality of the service is poor. Could create podcasts that are more than just recording the sermon – could include some prayers, information about upcoming worship.
- “Branding” the First Service – how could we do this?

Emily Jarret Hughes’ idea for a water service this summer at one of the Minneapolis Lakes

- Emily would like to have a service at a lake this summer, focusing on the spirituality of water. She would work on this and is just asking for our approval.
- Karen will check with Emily for more details – location, timing.

Services during Lent – themes/ideas

- Ash Wednesday – March 6
- Lenten Communion in Second Service – March 10
- Maundy Thursday – April 18
- Good Friday – April 19
- Easter – April 21
- Other Services?

Other Business

Committee concerns

- Communion on March 10 will be by intinction
- Don McKenzie will meet with Second Service committee.
- Ushers/greeters
 - Have gotten some additional people to act as head usher: Bonnie Janda, Andrea Bubula. Mary Baker

Filling the vacancy on the Board of Worship

- Can submit names to the nominating committee
 - Chris Lance
 - Steve Anderson
 - Bonnie Janda
 - Mary Baker
 - Someone with young children?

Next Meeting

- We will move our meetings to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. That means our March meeting will be 3/20/19. 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.
- Opening thought by: Nancy Geert-Larson
- Closing thought by: Jamie Bonczyk

Going Forth from this Space

Closing thought - Karen

Read a blessing from Sounds of the Eternal, a Celtic Psalter by J. Philip Newell

Next Meeting

Wednesday March 20, 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the Nancy Baltin's Room.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Geertz-Larson, secretary*